



SHOWCASE

presents

APR.
NO. 61

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CODE
AUTHORITY

The SPECTRE!

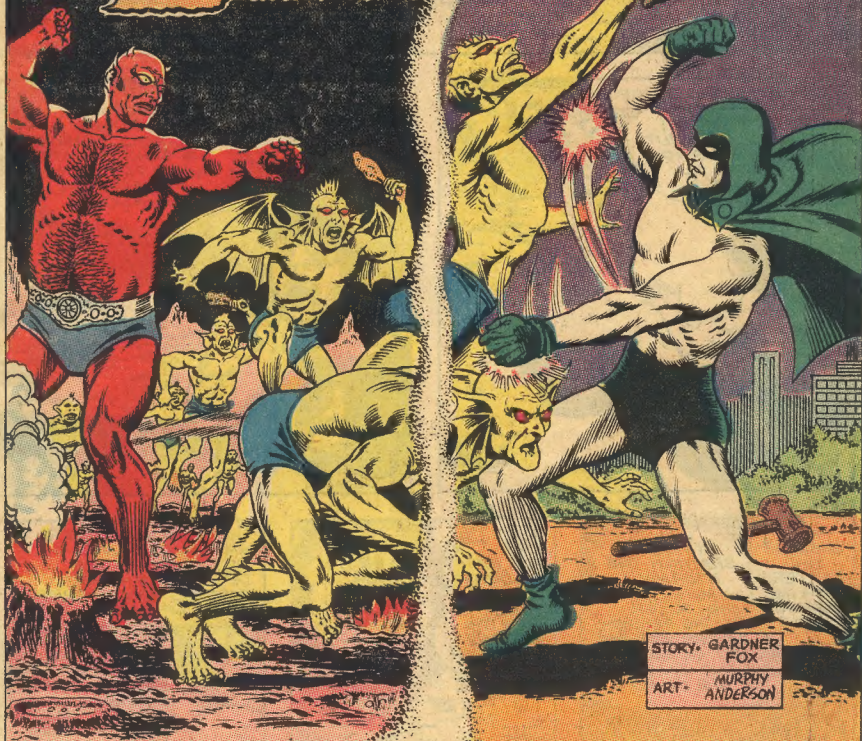
12¢

A BOOK-LENGTH
SPECTRE-ACULAR...
"BEYOND THE
SINISTER
BARRIER"



THEY FOUGHT
for *POSSESSION*
of *EARTH*--
with *EARTH ITSELF*
as the *WEAPON*!

The SPECTRE!



STORY • GARDNER
FOX
ART • MURPHY
ANDERSON

BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE FIRST PRIMAL ATOM EXPLODED TO CREATE THE EONS AND PLANETS-- PLANTS AND ANIMALS--GOOD AND EVIL!

FOR LONG EONS EVIL HAS EXISTED IN THE PSYCHO-MATTER UNIVERSE OF DIS-- AWAITING THAT MOMENT OUT OF TIME WHEN IT COULD BREAK THROUGH AND DOMINATE THE EARTH! ASSIGNED TO THWART THIS THREAT IS THE SPECTRE-- THE ONLY ONE POSSESSING POWER ENOUGH TO KEEP THE FORCE OF EVIL PENNED UP--

BEYOND the SINISTER BARRIER!

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Printed
in
U.S.A.

SHOWCASE, No. 61, March-April, 1966. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. 62286. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 573 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U.S., 70c including postage. Foreign, \$1.40 in American funds. Canada, 85c in Amer-

ican funds. For advertising rate address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1966. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

ALONG THE SCORCHING SANDS OF THE GOBI DESERT STAGGERS A MONGOLIAN BANDIT, HIS TONGUE SWOLLEN, HIS SENSES REELING FROM THIRST...



WATER! DEMON SPIRITS OF THE DESERT--GIVE ME WATER! I DIE IF I DO NOT HAVE IT!



SUDDENLY, AHEAD OF HIM...

A POOL OF WATER! THANKS TO MERKYUT, THE HEAVENLY BIRD WHICH GUIDES ALL TRAVELERS!



AIEEE! IT WAS ONLY A MIRAGE! THIS IS SAND--NOT WATER!

DESPAIR NOT! I WOULD WILLINGLY CHANGE THE SAND TO WATER AGAIN FOR A SMALL PRICE--YOUR SHADOW!



WHO SPEAKS? WHO BARTERS WITH ME FOR MY LIFE?

IT IS I-- SHATHAN THE ETERNAL! MASTER OF DIS, RULER OF THE PSYCHO-MATTER WORLDS! DO YOU SELL ME YOUR SHADOW-- YES OR NO?



M-MY LIFE FOR MY SHADOW? YES-- YES! TAKE IT-- BUT GIVE ME WATER!

SO BE IT! YOUR SHADOW BELONGS TO ME! NOW-- DRINK!



THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SHADOW UPON THE HOT SANDS OF THE DESERT! ONLY THE PARCHED BANDIT, SLURPING UP WATER...

I TOO SHALL LIVE ON EARTH! WITH ENOUGH HUMAN SHADOWS I SHALL KNOW LIFE HERE AS I HAVE KNOWN IT FOR ALL ETERNITY IN DIS, LAND OF EVIL!

I WILL LIVE!



SOME DAYS LATER IN FRANCE, SPELLUNKER ANDRE VOISIN FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED BY A CAVE-IN, WHEN SUDDENLY...

HELP! HELP! GET ME OUT OF HERE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE! CAN'T ANYONE HEAR ME?

I ANSWER YOUR CALL! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LIFE--FOR A PRICE!

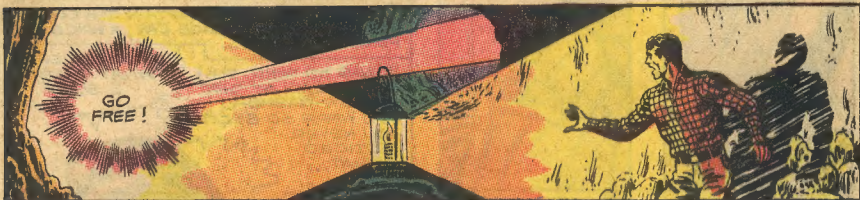


HUH? WHO'S THERE?
OH, WHAT DOES IT MATTER! I'LL SELL YOU ANYTHING IF YOU'LL SAVE ME--EVEN MY SOUL!

YOUR SOUL IS OF NO USE TO ME-- BUT YOUR **SHADOW** IS! AND SINCE THE SELLING PRICE IS AGREEABLE--



GO FREE!

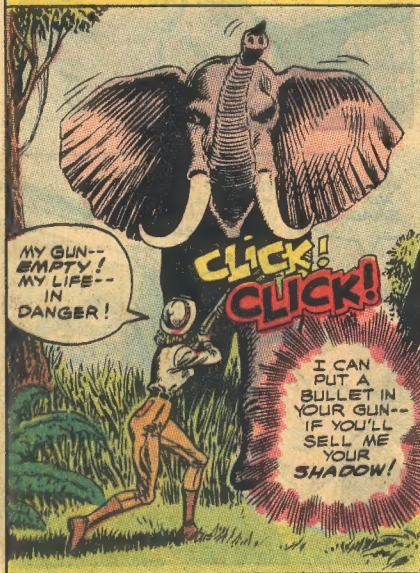


IN AFRICA, WORLD-RENNOWNED BIG GAME HUNTER OLIVE MORELL FACES A MADDENED BLEPHANT WHEN...

MY GUN-- EMPTY! MY LIFE-- IN DANGER!

CLICK!
CLICK!

I CAN PUT A BULLET IN YOUR GUN-- IF YOU'LL SELL ME YOUR **SHADOW!**



MY LIFE IS PRICELESS-- MY **SHADOW** VALUELESS! GIVE ME THAT BULLET!



BLAMM!

GOT IT--JUST IN TIME! WHAT A LIFE-SAVER!



NEXT--IN GATEWAY CITY, A WINDOW-WASHER FEELS HIS SAFETY BELT SNAP AS...

FALLING FORTY STORIES! MY LIFE'S NOT WORTH A--

HEARING THINGS! MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND! BUT WHAT CAN I LOSE?

IS IT WORTH YOUR SHADOW?

YES! YES! TAKE MY SHADOW-- GIVE ME MY LIFE!

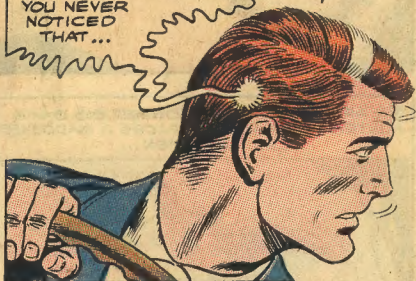


HE LANDED AS LIGHTLY AS A FEATHER! WHAT A LUCKY GUY! HE MUST HAVE BEEN SAVED BY A SUDDEN UP-DRAFT OF WIND!

EVEN AS DETECTIVE CAPTAIN JIM CORRIGAN RETURNS TO HIS POLICE CAR, A VOICE WHISPERS WITHIN HIM...

IT WAS NO WIND, JIM! LOOK AGAIN AT THAT WINDOW-WASHER! YOU WERE SO EXCITED YOU NEVER NOTICED THAT...

NEVER NOTICED WHAT? OH-- I SEE!



HE HAS NO SHADOW!

IT DISAPPEARED-- EVEN AS HE FELL! THIS IS A JOB FOR THE SPECTRE!



FROM THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN, DETECTIVE, HE COMES--THIS EERIE BEING KNOWN AS **THE SPECTRE**, WHOSE DARING EXPLOITS HAVE HELPED TO HOLD IN CHECK THE CRIME LORDS OF THE EARTH, WHOSE POWERS BORDER ON THE SPECTACULAR AND THE WEIRD...

I SENSE AN EVIL AURA DEEP INSIDE THAT MAN! I MUST FOLLOW HIM-- DISCOVER WHAT ALIEN AND MYSTERIOUS FORCES ARE AT WORK HERE ON EARTH!

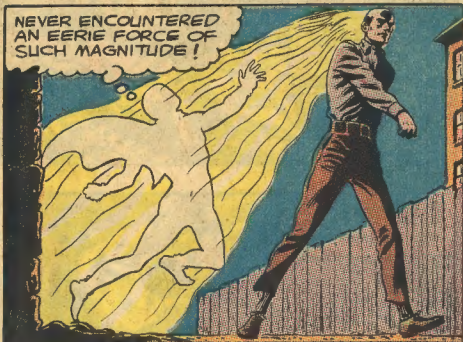


INVISIBLE TO ALL EYES, HE STALKS THE WINDOW-WASHER. SUDDENLY...



I'M BEING GRIPPED BY SOME FORM OF ECTO-PLASMIC MAGNETISM! IT'S DRAWING ME TOWARD THAT WINDOW-WASHER! I--AM POWERLESS-- TO STOP IT!

NEVER ENCOUNTERED AN EERIE FORCE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE!



THE **GHOSTLY GUARDIAN** IS DRAWN INSIDE THE WINDOW-WASHER'S BODY-- WHERE A DARK, SINISTER SHADOW WAITS TO ENFOLD HIM...

THE MISSING SHADOW-- EMITTING EVIL ENERGY BUILDING IN FRIGHTFUL FURY!

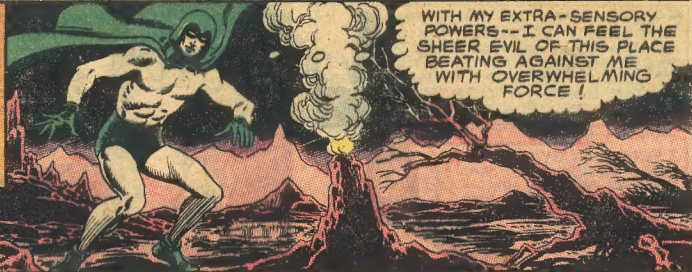


AS SPIRIT DUELS WITH SHADOW, UN-NATURAL FORCES SEETHE AND STIR, GATHERING EXPLOSIVE PRESSURE UNTIL...

THE PSYCHIC DETONATION IS HURLING ME COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE--



WHIRLED UPWARD INTO PLANES OF EXISTENCE THAT HAVE NO COUNTER-PART ON EARTH, THE DISMEMBERED DETECTIVE FINDS GATEWAY CITY GONE AND IN ITS PLACE A BARREN, BANEFUL LAND...



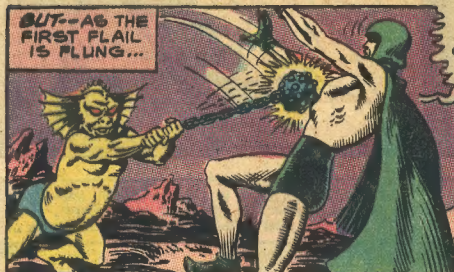
WITH MY EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS--I CAN FEEL THE SHEER EVIL OF THIS PLACE BEATING AGAINST ME WITH OVERWHELMING FORCE!

RACING TOWARD HIM, THEIR EMPTY EYES ALIGHT WITH EVIL, COME THE DEMONIC DENIZENS OF THIS ELDRITCH WORLD...



I HAVE NO NEED TO FEAR THESE CREATURES! THEIR WEAPONS CANNOT HARM MY DISCARNATE BODY!

BUT--AS THE FIRST FLAIL IS PLUNG...



IT'S UNCANNY! MY BODY-- ON THIS WORLD-- IS RACKED WITH PAIN!

CAN THE SPECTRE SURVIVE IN THIS EERIE, PSYCHO-MATTER WORLD? WHAT TERRIBLE ENTITY IS DIRECTING ITS MALIGNANT FURY AT HIM--AND WHY?

THE DEADLY DOOM DESIGNED TO DESTROY THE AGE OF SHADES CONTINUES ON THE 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

A FABULOUS FIRST! INTRODUCING THE CHALLENGER CORPS!

WHO
WHY
WHAT
WHERE

ARE THESE STRANGERS
DO THEY FORM THE WORLD'S WEIRDEST CLUB
IS THE SINISTER BOND TYING THEM TOGETHER
DO THEY REVEAL THEIR STARTLING SECRET



THE CHALLS, THOSE FOUR FAMOUS FEAR-FIGHTERS, GET THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES, AND SO WILL YOU-- IN THIS TRIPLE-THREAT THRILLER...
'The TYRANT WHO OWNED THE WORLD!'





BEYOND *the* SINISTER BARRIER

PART
2

WEAPON AFTER WEAPON STRIKING THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN SENDS HIM REELING! IN MINGLED SHOCK AND SURPRISE, HE BATTLES BACK, LASHING OUT WITH SAVAGE FISTS!

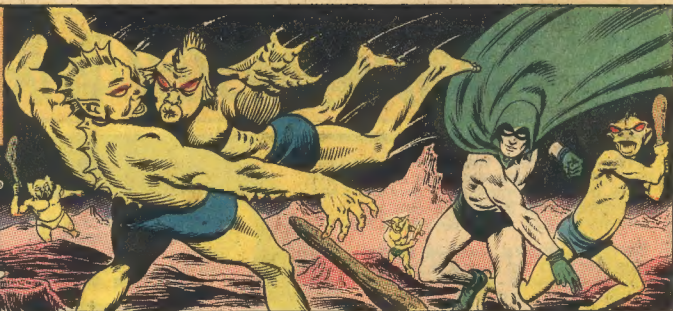
NEVER BEFORE HAS HE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SUCH A DEADLY GAME OF GIVE-AND-TAKE -- WHERE HIS LIFE ESSENCE MIGHT AT ANY MOMENT BE DRIVEN FROM HIS SPIRIT SHAPE!

AND OUR WEAPONS CAN DESTROY YOU BECAUSE THEY--LIKE US--ARE OF THE SAME STRUCTURE AS YOUR BODY!

IN THIS WORLD OF DIE WE ARE ALL NON-MATTER-- JUST AS YOU ARE, SPECTRE!



THE ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE TERRIBLE, BUT THE SPECTRE IS A FIGHTER! HE LIFTS AND HURLS TSATHHALA OF THE HUNDRED SEAS INTO THE DEMONIC AHRIMAN OF THE WINDY WORLDS...



THE ABOMINATIONS OF ALL TIME ARE HERE! THESE FIENDS ARE THE LIVING INCARNATION OF EVERY EVIL KNOWN TO MAN!



THIS EVIL IS SEEKING TO ESCAPE FROM THE WORLD OF DIS-- INTO EARTH! BUT WHY? AND WHO CAN BE BEHIND IT?



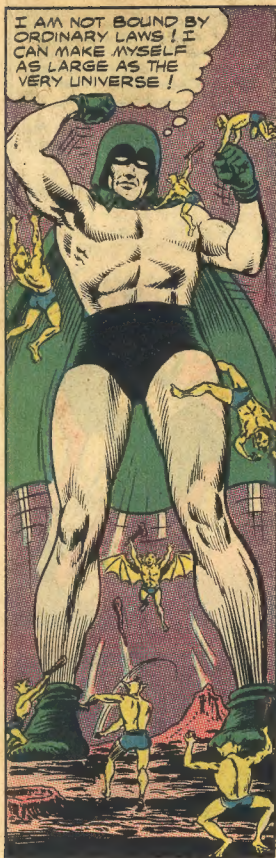
STRUGGLE AS HE WILL-- THE DEMONS ARE TOO MANY IN NUMBER FOR THE DISCARNATE DETECTIVE! INDIVIDUALLY IMBUED WITH POWERS EQUAL ALMOST TO HIS OWN, THEY ATTACK SAVAGELY, FURIOUSLY...

I SENSE ALSO THAT I AM THE ONLY THING ON EARTH WHO CAN PREVENT THIS INVASION OF EVIL! I WAS LURED HERE--TO BE DESTROYED! TO CLEAR THE PATH FOR-- WHAT...?



I HAVE ONE TRICK STILL IN RESERVE! IF THAT FAILS, ME ON THIS WORLD--BUT NO! I MUST NOT FAIL!

I AM NOT BOUND BY ORDINARY LAWS! HE CAN MAKE MYSELF AS LARGE AS THE VERY UNIVERSE!



I'LL GROW UNTIL I BECOME SO NEBULOUS...



...THAT THE WEAPONS OF THE DEMONS WILL PASS BETWEEN THE SPACES OF THE ATOMS WHICH MAKE UP MY BODY!



NOW HIS PSYCHO-MATTER BODY IS HUNDREDS--THOUSANDS--MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS LARGE! COMETS--SUNS--GALAXIES--PASS HARMLESSLY THROUGH HIS SUPER-GIANT SHAPE...

I MUST CONCENTRATE AGAIN--WILL THE FLOATING PARTICLES OF MY SUBSTANCE TO REGROUP THEMSELVES BACK ON THE EARTH OF MY BIRTH!



NEXT MOMENT HE STANDS IN THE WISPY FOG BLOWING IN OFF THE WATERS OF GATEWAY HARBOR WHERE THE FOGHORNS BUILD A MOURNFUL SYMPHONY IN THE MISTY AIR...

KKKKWHOO--KKKKWOOO



THAT'S ODD! THE FOGHORNS SEEM TO BE MAKING INTELLIGIBLE SOUNDS--TO ME!

THE PSYCHIC EARS OF THE SPIRIT SLEUTH MAKE SENSE OF THOSE BLARING HORNS, HEAR THEM AS WORDS...

YOU ARE PUZZLED, SPECTRE! SHAKEN BY WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED! KNOW YOU THAT THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE ABROAD ON EARTH! NOT LONG AGO AZMODUS SOUGHT TO UNLEASH UNIVERSAL WICKEDNESS--BUT YOU STOPPED HIM!*

* SEE SHOWCASE #60: WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE!

NOW SHATHAN THE
ETERNAL SEEKS TO RIP
THE SINISTER BARRIER
BETWEEN THE WORLD
OF DIS AND EARTH!
ALREADY HE HAS SOUGHT
TO DESTROY YOU, FOR HE
KNOWS THAT THROUGH
YOU MUST BE FOUGHT
THE COMING BATTLE
OF GOOD--AND EVIL!



YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO ELIMINATE TIME, TO
ALLY YOURSELF TO ITS
STEADY FLOW! GO BACK
NOW-- TO THE VERY
BEGINNINGS OF ALL
THINGS, AND KNOW
FROM WHENCE THIS
SHATHAN SPRINGS!



THE SPECTRE POSSESSES
THE POWER TO PULSATE HIS
SPIRIT FORM, TO MERGE IT
WITH THE PULSE OF TIME
ITSELF, TO FLOW FORWARD
OR BACKWARD IN TIME ...

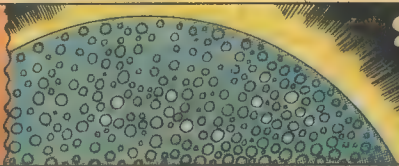
TIME IS--ALWAYS! IN TIME
THERE IS NO ACTUAL PAST
OR FUTURE. ONLY THE
FINITE SENSES OF MAN
INVENT SUCH DIFFERENCES,
FOR OTHERWISE MAN
COULD NOT EXIST! AS
I PULSATE, I BECOME
A PART OF TIME ...



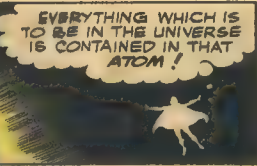
BACKWARD
HE FLOWS
THROUGH
THE STREAM
OF AGES
AND EONS,
A PART OF ALL
THAT IS TAKING
PLACE, HAS
TAKEN PLACE
OR WILL TAKE
PLACE ...



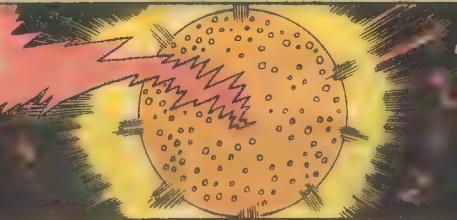
UNTIL HE COMES TO
THAT VERY FIRST
MOMENT IN TIME
12 BILLION YEARS
BEFORE, WHEN ALL
THAT EXISTS IS THE
PRIMAL ATOM --
IMMENSE BEYOND
BELIEF-- COSMICALLY
GIGANTIC ...



EVERYTHING WHICH IS
TO BE IN THE UNIVERSE
IS CONTAINED IN THAT
ATOM!



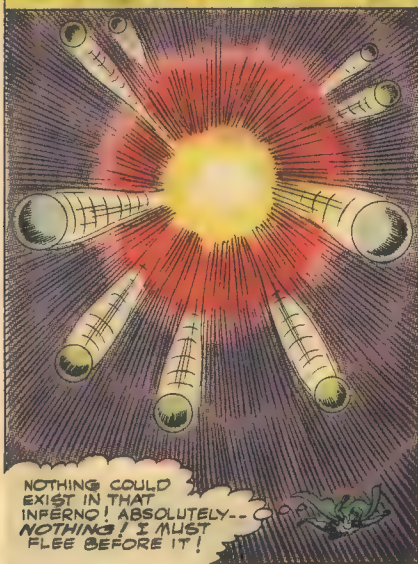
THEN OUT OF THE VOID
STABS THE CREATIVE
FORCE, A BOLT OF
SUPER-NORMAL POWER
WHICH HURTLES
INTO THE
COLOSSAL
ATOM ...



THIS IS THE
VERY INSTANT OF
CREATION!



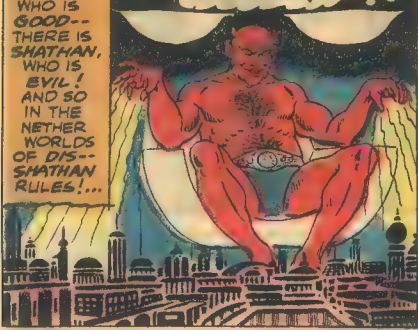
MATTER EXPLODES! OUT TO FILL THE VOID OF A NOW-EXPANDING UNIVERSE--EVENTUALLY TO MAKE STARS AND PLANETS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS--RUSH THE ATOMIC PARTICLES..



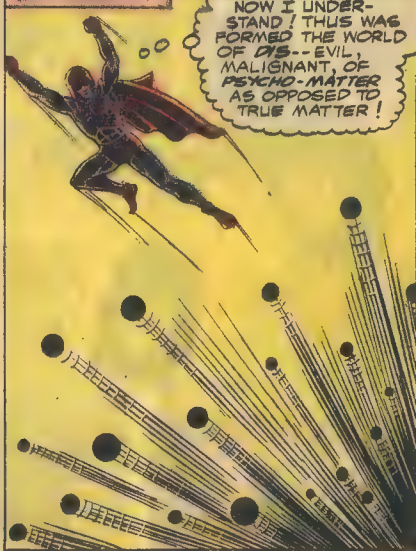
NOTHING COULD EXIST IN THAT INFERNO! ABSOLUTELY-- NOTHING! I MUST FLEE BEFORE IT!

FOR EVERY GOOD THERE IS AN--EVIL! FOR HIM WHO IS GOOD-- THERE IS SHATHAN, WHO IS EVIL! AND SO IN THE NETHER WORLDS OF DIS-- SHATHAN RULES!...

"SHATHAN APPEARED TO THE DEMONS OF DIS, AND IS WORSHIPPED BY THEM! IT IS THAT WORSHIP WHICH GIVES HIM-- EXISTENCE!"



AT THIS SAME MOMENT--FOR EVERY ACTION MUST HAVE AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION--ANOTHER UNIVERSE IS FORMED BY IMPLOSION--A NETHER UNIVERSE...



NOW I UNDERSTAND! THIS WAS FORMED THE WORLD OF DIS--EVIL, MALIGNANT, OF PSYCHO-MATTER AS OPPOSED TO TRUE MATTER!

"AS LONG AS THERE IS A BELIEF IN HIM, SHATHAN EXISTS! HE IS REVERED IN HIS UNIVERSE--AND BEING EVIL, SOUGHT TO BE MASTER OF MORE THAN THE PSYCHO-MATTER COSMOS OF DIS!"



"HE WANTS TO DOMINATE THE PHYSICAL-MATTER UNIVERSE--WITH EARTH SERVING AS A STEPPING-STONE FOR HIS CONQUEST TO BREAK THE BARRIER BETWEEN THE OPPOSITE UNIVERSES. HE SENT EVIL MENTAL IMAGES IN THE PAST..."



"BUT--THE FORCES OF GOOD WERE NOT ASLEEP! GREAT MEN ROSE UP TO LEAD THE WAY OF GOODNESS..."



MOSES... PETER... BUDDHA... MOHAMMED...



"SLOWLY THOSE POWERS OF GOOD PUSHED BACK THE EVIL! HAD THEY NOT--GOOD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BELIEVED IN--AND SO WOULD HAVE CEASED TO EXIST..."

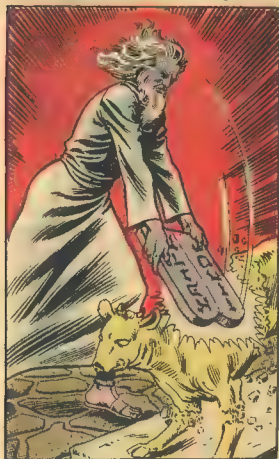


"CENTURIES LATER, SHATHAN THE ETERNAL SENT HIS PERSONALLY TRAINED DEPUTY-- AZMODUS--INTO EARTH TO PAVE THE WAY FOR HIS OWN APPEARANCE..."



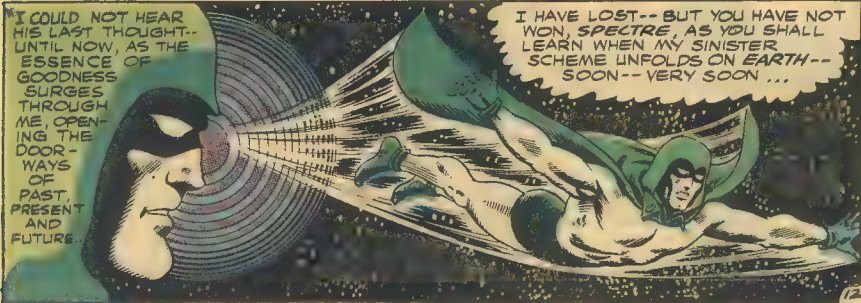
"AZMODUS CAME CLOSE TO SUCCEEDING BUT I DEFEATED HIM, PLACING HIM IN NO-TIME AND NO-SPACE..."

HERE YOU SHALL REMAIN FOR ALL INFINITY--POWERLESS TO WORK YOUR EVIL WILL ON HUMAN OR SPIRIT-BEING EVER AGAIN!



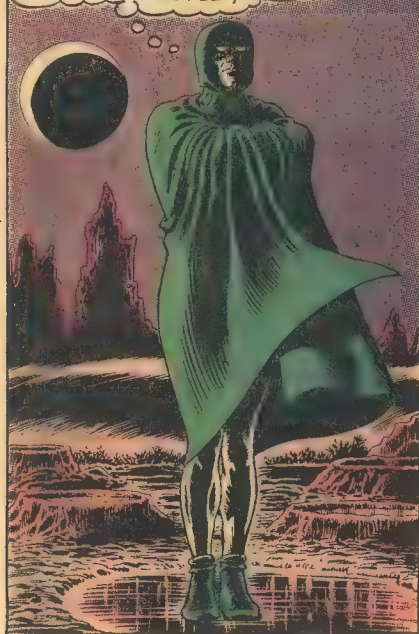
"I COULD NOT HEAR HIS LAST THOUGHT--UNTIL NOW, AS THE ESSENCE OF GOODNESS SURGES THROUGH ME, OPENING THE DOORWAYS OF PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE..."

I HAVE LOST-- BUT YOU HAVE NOT WON, SPECTRE, AS YOU SHALL LEARN WHEN MY SINISTER SCHEME UNFOLDS ON EARTH-- SOON-- VERY SOON ...



THE SINISTER PLAN OF **AZMODUS** IS NOW REVEALED IN THE MIND OF **THE SPECTRE**..

AZMODUS SET EERIE FORCES IN MOTION WHICH PERMITTED HIS MASTER **SHATHAN** TO BREAK THROUGH THE SINISTER BARRIER AND ENTER **EARTH**! BY SECURING THE **SHADOWS** OF WILLING VICTIMS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH AND IMPRISONING THEM IN THE BODIES OF THEIR FORMER OWNERS, HE HAS CREATED A LOYAL FOLLOWING OF **EARTH PEOPLE**!



BY BELIEVING IN **SHATHAN**, HIS SUBJECTS CAUSE HIM TO EXIST ON **EARTH**!

HE WILL GROW MORE POWERFUL-- AND BLOT OUT THE BELIEF IN **GOOD**!

THEN ONLY **EVIL** WILL DOMINATE THE WORLD...



I ALONE--AS THE DEPUTY OF **GOOD**--AS **AZMODUS** WAS THE DEPUTY OF **SHATHAN**-- CAN PREVENT THIS! IT IS MY DUTY-- PERHAPS EVEN THE VERY REASON WHY **THE SPECTRE** WAS BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE, YEARS AGO...



MOMENTARILY EXHAUSTED BY HIS TRIP THROUGH **TIME** AND THE NETHER UNIVERSE OF **DIS**, THE **SPIRIT SLEUTH** RETURNS INTO THE BODY OF **JIM CORRIGAN**, JUST AS...



I MUST REFLECT ON WHAT I'VE LEARNED--DEVISE A PLAN OF ATTACK...

HE PAYS NO HEED TO THE FACT THAT DETECTIVE CAPTAIN CORRIGAN IS HIMSELF FIGHTING FOR LAW AND ORDER...



YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME, CORRIGAN!

TO EACH HIS OWN: TO THE SPECTRE THE TROUBLES OF THE PSYCHO-WORLD, TO JIM CORRIGAN THE COMPARATIVELY PETTY CRIMES OF ERRANT HUMANS...



IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!

YOU'RE THE BRAINS BEHIND THE WAREHOUSE ROBBERIES GANG-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THEM-- IN JAIL ...

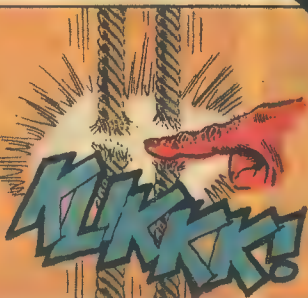


ONLY THE SPECTRE SENSES THE RAW EVIL SURROUNDING THE ELEVATOR AS IT STARTS ITS LONG FALL TO DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON THE GROUND FAR BELOW...

I SENSE THE EVIL OF SHATHAN THE ETERNAL! HE BROKE THE CABLE ...



SO INTENT IS JIM CORRIGAN ON HIS OWN BATTLE OF GOOD OVER EVIL THAT HE DOES NOT HEAR THE FAINT SNICK OF PARTING ELEVATOR CABLES...



THE DISCARNATE--
DETECTIVE FLOWS
OUT OF THE CAR,
DROPS DOWNWARD,
HIS HAND LIFTING
TO CATCH AND
CRADLE THE FALL-
ING ELEVATOR ...

WHY SHOULD THE
EVIL ONE CON-
CERN HIMSELF
WITH KILLING
JIM CORRIGAN ?
SURELY, HE
POSES NO
THREAT TO
SHATHAN !

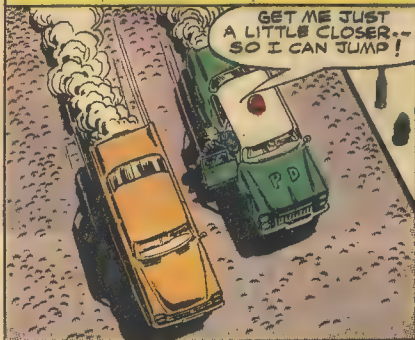


SLOWLY HE
SHRINKS, GENTLY
LOWERING THE
CAR ...



I'LL SAVE JIM'S
LIFE--AND THAT
OF THE CROOK--!
BUT IF ONLY I
KNEW WHY SHATHAN
ATTACKED THEM !
IT MIGHT ENABLE
ME TO KNOW WHAT
TO DO !

THERE IS NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION
IN THE MIND OF THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN,
WHO MAKES THE POLICE ROUNDS WITH
JIM CORRIGAN NEXT DAY ...



GET ME JUST
A LITTLE CLOSER--
SO I CAN JUMP !

MADE IT ! I'VE
GOT A GOOD
GRIP ON HIM !

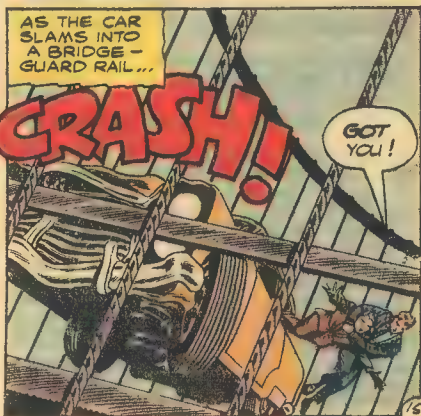
LEGGO !
OR--I'LL
CR--CRASH !



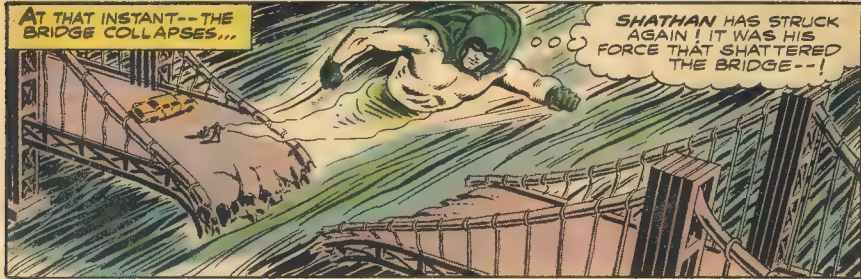
AS THE CAR
SLAMS INTO
A BRIDGE -
GUARD RAIL ...

CRASH!!

GOT
YOU !



AT THAT INSTANT--THE
BRIDGE COLLAPSES...



THE PSYCHIC
ENERGIES
OF THE
**SPIRIT
SLEUTH**
ARE SO
GREAT THAT
AS FAST AS
SHATHAN
DESTROYS
THE BRIDGE
SO THE
SPECTRE
REBUILDS IT!..

OF COURSE! **SHATHAN** IS KEEPING
ME BUSY--TO GIVE HIMSELF TIME TO
ASSEMBLE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE
SHADOWS HE OWNS! WHEN THEY BEGIN
WORSHIPPING HIM AND BELIEVE IN HIM--
EVIL FORCES WILL BE SET IN MOTION TO
ENABLE HIM TO DOMINATE
THIS WORLD!

I MUST MOVE NOW TO
STOP HIM! WITH PARA--
NORMAL SENSES I WILL
TRACK DOWN **SHATHAN**
AND HIS WORSHIPPERS!



**BUT-- WILL THE MIGHTY SPECTRE BE ABLE TO OVER--
COME THE EVIL ONE -- WHEN THEY MEET IN COMBAT?
GREAT INDEED ARE THE POWERS OF THE SPECTRE --
BUT JUST AS MIGHTY ARE THOSE OF SHATHAN THE
ETERNAL!
THE COLOSSAL CONCLUSION STARTS ON THE 4TH
PAGE FOLLOWING!**



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(Act of October 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, U.S. Code)

1. Date of Filing: October 1st, 1965.
2. Title of Publication: SHOWCASE.
3. Frequency of Issue: Bi-Monthly.
4. Office of Publication: 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10022.
5. Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y., 10022.
6. Names and addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher, National Periodical Publications, Inc., 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.; Editor, Julius Schwartz, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, None.
7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.): National Periodical Publications, Inc., Estate of Harry Donenfeld, J. S. Liebowitz, P. H. Sampliner, Irwin Donenfeld,

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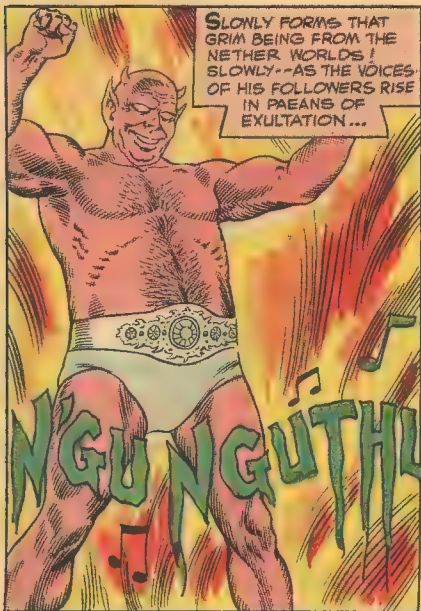
BEYOND *the* SINISTER BARRIER

PART
3



I AM--TOO
LATE!
SHATHAN
IS ON EARTH!

IN A LONG-FORGOTTEN
TEMPLE GATHER THE
SHADOW-SELLERS TO
WORSHIP SHATHAN!
THEIR VOICES ARE RAISED
IN AN ANCIENT CHORUS--
A CHANT THAT COMPELS THE
PRESENCE OF SHATHAN--
A PAEAN THAT SHATTERS
THE BARRIERS BETWEEN
DIS AND EARTH-- A
SONG WHOSE VERY EVIL
ALERTS THE DISCARNATE
DETECTIVE TO
ITS EXISTENCE!



SLOWLY FORMS THAT GRIM BEING FROM THE NETHER WORLDS! SLOWLY--AS THE VOICES OF HIS FOLLOWERS RISE IN PAEANS OF EXULTATION...

THOSE VOICES SOAR IN ECSTASY! FOR NOW SHATHAN THE ETERNAL FIRMS SOLIDLY BEFORE THEM--EYES GLOWING REDLY WITH ANCIENT EVIL, LIPS CURVING GRIMLY IN TRIUMPH...

THE WORSHIP OF MY FOLLOWERS ON EARTH, THOSE WHO SOLD ME THEIR SHADOWS--HAS BROKEN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN THE WORLDS!



FROM ABOVE, THE SPECTRE DROPS SWIFTLY LIKE A HUNTING FALCON...

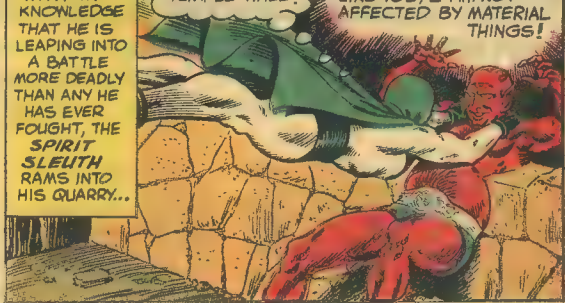
YOU CAN DO NOTHING AGAINST ME, SPECTRE! WHAT MATTERS NOW IS NOT YOUR FAILURE BUT MY TRIUMPH!



DESPERATELY, FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS LEAPING INTO A BATTLE MORE DEADLY THAN ANY HE HAS EVER FOUGHT, THE SPIRIT SLEUTH RAMS INTO HIS QUARRY...

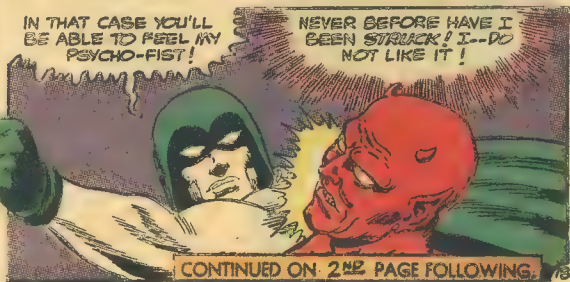
HE'S GOING THROUGH THE STONE OF THE TEMPLE WALL!

HA! HA! BEING OF PSYCHO-MATTER LIKE YOU, I AM NOT AFFECTED BY MATERIAL THINGS!



IN THAT CASE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL MY PSYCHO-FIST!

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEEN STRUCK! I--DO NOT LIKE IT!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

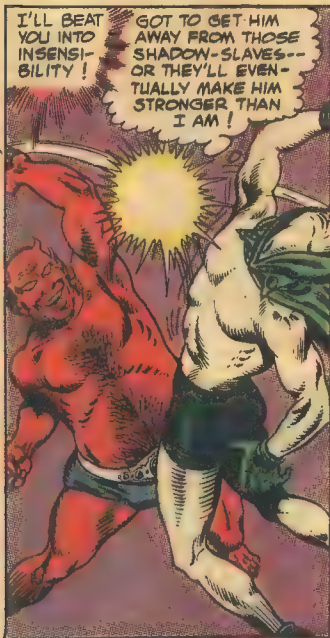
EVEN AS HE REELS BACK, SHATHAN SENDS A MENTAL COMMAND TO HIS FOLLOWERS TO SING AGAIN...



I CAN SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF YOUR BLOW, THANKS TO MY WORSHIPERS! AND AS THEIR CHANT GIVES ME EXTRA STRENGTH AND POWER...

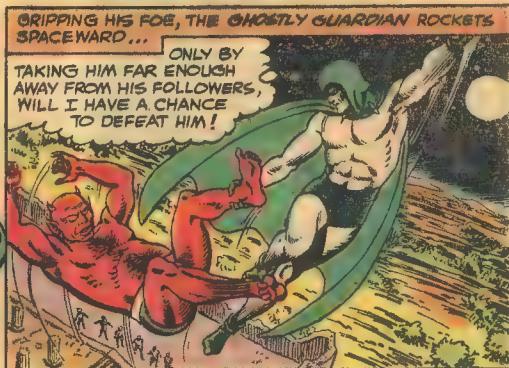
I'LL BEAT YOU INTO INSENSIBILITY!

GOT TO GET HIM AWAY FROM THOSE SHADOW-SLAVES-- OR THEY'LL EVENTUALLY MAKE HIM STRONGER THAN I AM!



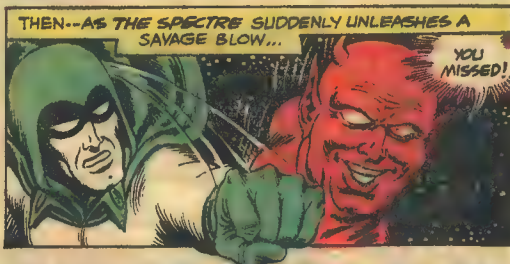
GRIPPING HIS FOE, THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN ROCKETS SPACEWARD...

ONLY BY TAKING HIM FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM HIS FOLLOWERS, WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO DEFEAT HIM!

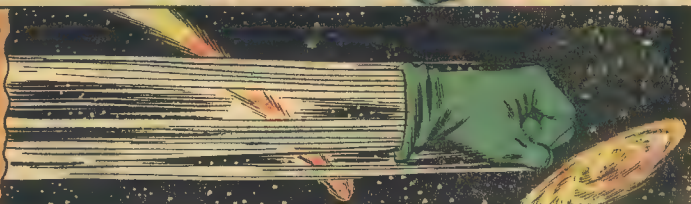


THEN--AS THE SPECTRE SUDDENLY UNLEASHES A SAVAGE BLOW...

YOU MISSED!



BUT THAT BLOW HAS NOT ENDED! FOR WITH SPEED BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION THAT AWESOME PSYCHO-MATTER FIST HURTLING ON AND ON ACROSS THE HUNDREDS OF BILLION-LIGHT-YEARS OF THE UNIVERSE...

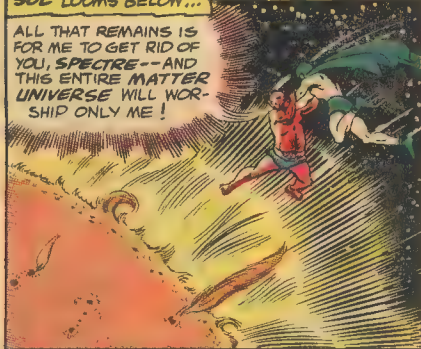


TO RETURN-- SINCE SPACE-TIME IS CURVED-- AND BELT THE DICTATOR OF DIS FROM BEHIND...



THOUGH DAZED, THE EVIL ONE GRAPPLES WITH SPECTRE, WHO TWISTS THEIR ANGLE OF FALL UNTIL THE MASSIVE, FIERY BALL OF SOL LOOKS BELOW...

ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO GET RID OF YOU, SPECTRE--AND THIS ENTIRE MATTER UNIVERSE WILL WORSHIP ONLY ME!



YET SHATHAN IS NOT ALL-KNOWING, THOUGH HE SEEMINGLY IS ALL-POWERFUL!

HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS MATTER UNIVERSE AS HE IS WITH HIS OWN WORLD OF DIS! THEREIN LIES MY ONLY HOPE OF VICTORY!



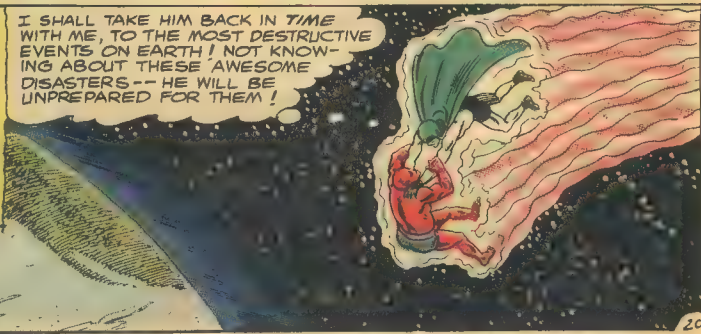
OUT OF THE SUN AND THROUGH THE DARK DEPTHS OF SPACE HURTLE THE GRAPPLING FIGURES...

I MUST USE THE FORCES OF GOOD... ONE OF WHICH IS TIME THAT HEALS ALL WOUNDS!



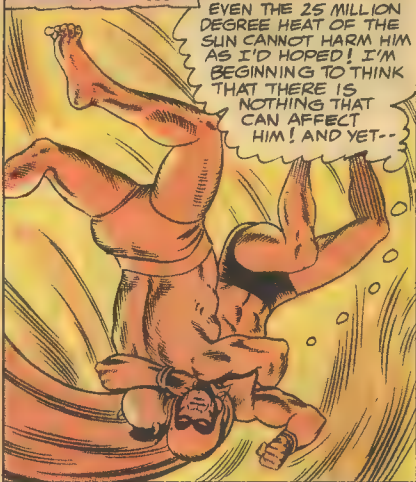
SUDDENLY--THE SPIRIT SLEUTH CHANGES THE PULSATIONS OF HIS PSYCHO-MATTER BODY, DRAWING SHATHAN INTO THAT SAME VIBRATORY FIELD...

I SHALL TAKE HIM BACK IN TIME WITH ME, TO THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE EVENTS ON EARTH! NOT KNOWING ABOUT THESE AWESOME DISASTERS--HE WILL BE UNPREPARED FOR THEM!



DEEP, DEEP, DEEP INTO THE HEART OF THE FIERY FURNACE WHICH IS THE SUN THEY PLUNGE! FIGHTING, WRESTLING, SEEKING LETHAL HOLDS ON ONE ANOTHER, THEY STRUGGLE ON...

EVEN THE 25 MILLION DEGREE HEAT OF THE SUN CANNOT HARM HIM AS I'D HOPED! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN AFFECT HIM! AND YET--



GRIPPING THE DEMON DICTATOR OF DIS, THE SPECTRE DROPS DOWNWARD OVER THE SOVIET UNION ON THE 30TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1961--FIVE YEARS IN THE PAST...

SHATHAN ISN'T AWARE OF IT-- BUT THE RUSSIANS ARE ABOUT TO DETONATE A 57-MEGATHON THERMO-NUCLEAR BOMB, THE LARGEST MAN-MADE EXPLOSION IN HISTORY!



HE HURLS HIM DOWNWARD INTO THAT NUCLEAR INFERNO...

SUCH A RELEASE OF ENERGY SHOULD-- ANNIHILATE HIM!



VAAA-BOOM!

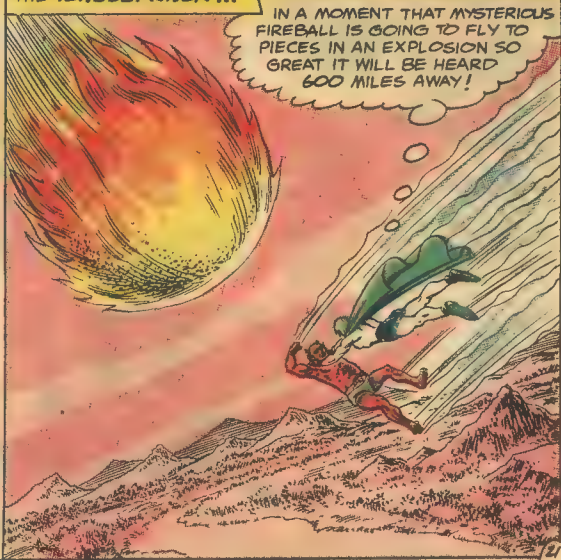
YET EVEN THAT TERRIFYING BLAST DOES NO MORE THAN SHAKE UP SHATHAN...

GOT TO TRY ANOTHER DISASTER-- AND QUICKLY, BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS STRENGTH!



BACKWARD THROUGH TIME FLEES THE SPIRIT SLEUTH WITH HIS EERIE ENEMY--TO SIBERIA OF JUNE 30, 1908-- AS A GREAT FIREBALL ROARS DOWN FROM THE SKY NEAR THE YENESEI RIVER ...

IN A MOMENT THAT MYSTERIOUS FIREBALL IS GOING TO FLY TO PIECES IN AN EXPLOSION SO GREAT IT WILL BE HEARD 600 MILES AWAY!

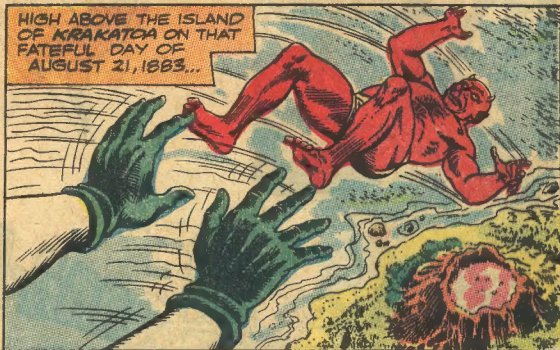


EVEN IN THE YEAR 1866, NO MAN IS ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT THIS MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION WAS OR WHERE THE FIREBALL CAME FROM! SOME BELIEVE IT WAS A SPACESHIP FROM ANOTHER WORLD THAT BLEW UP IN OUR ATMOSPHERE. OTHERS THEORIZE OUR UNIVERSE WAS INVADED BY A CHUNK OF ANTI-MATTER...

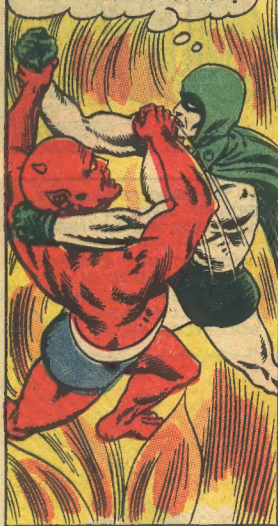


THOUGH OBVIOUSLY WEAKENED BY THE AWESOME BLAST THAT CAUSED FLAMES TWELVE MILES HIGH, SHATHAN IS STILL CONSCIOUS AND MORE VICIOUS THAN EVER...

HIGH ABOVE THE ISLAND OF KIRAKATCHA ON THAT FATEFUL DAY OF AUGUST 21, 1863...

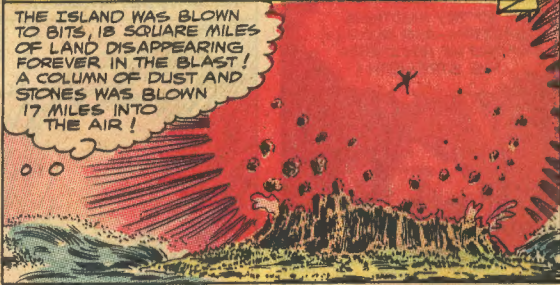


THERE WAS AN EVEN MORE DEADLY EXPLOSION--A QUARTER OF A CENTURY BEFORE! PERHAPS THAT WILL OVERCOME HIM!

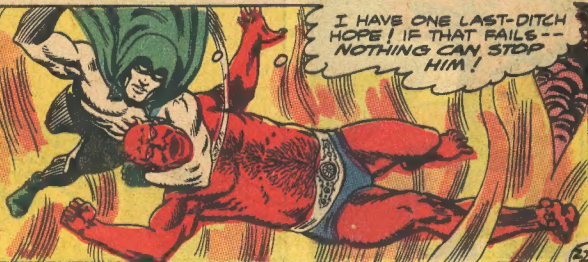


...INTO THE RED GLARE AND SUBBLING LAVA OF THAT BROODINGNAGIAN BLOW-UP HE HURLS HIM, EVEN AS THE ENTIRE ISLAND ERUPTS FROM THE SEA!...

THE ISLAND WAS BLOWN TO BITS, 18 SQUARE MILES OF LAND DISAPPEARING FOREVER IN THE BLAST! A COLUMN OF DUST AND STONES WAS BLOWN 17 MILES INTO THE AIR!



YET EVEN NOW, SHATHAN IS ALIVE, SURVIVOR OF THE GREATEST CATAclysm OF ITS TYPE EVER RECORDED! IT WAS HEARD 25,000 MILES AWAY! IT KILLED 35,000 PEOPLE! IT CAUSED TIDAL WAVES AS FAR AWAY AS ENGLAND!...



I HAVE ONE LAST-DITCH HOPE! IF THAT FAILS-- NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!

BACK--BACK--
BACK THROUGH
TIME RACES
THE SPIRIT
SLEUTH WITH
HIS OCCULT
OPPONENT--
UNTIL THE
STRUGGLING
SHADES COME
AT LAST TO
THE ORIGIN
OF ALL THINGS...

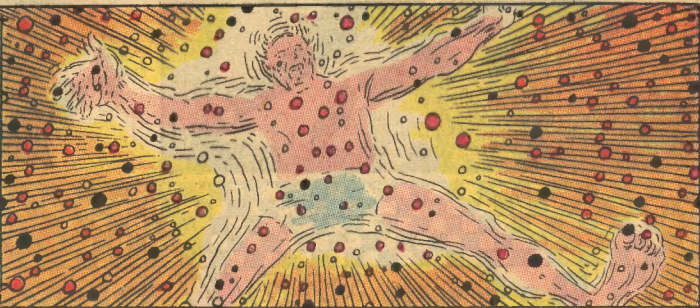
I'VE BROUGHT HIM TO THE
PRIMAL ATOM! SURELY HERE
THERE WILL BE A RELEASE
OF ENERGY TITANIC ENOUGH
TO BLAST HIS PSYCHO--
MATTER BODY!



ONCE AGAIN--
AS THE
CREATIVE
FORCE STABS
DEEP INTO THE
ATOM, DEEP
ALSO DOES
THE SPECTRE
TOSS
SHATHAN...

THERE IT GOES! I
MUST RACE THAT
EXPANDING
DETONATION
THROUGH TIME
ITSELF SO AS
NOT TO BE OVER-
TAKEN BY IT!

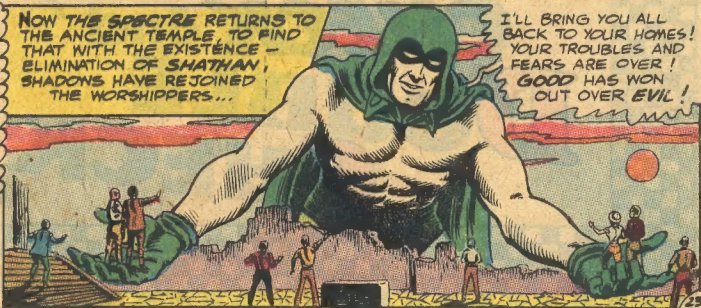
IN THAT MOST
AWESOME OF
ALL ENERGY
EXPLOSIONS
THE ESSENCE
OF SHATHAN
THE ETERNAL
IS HURLED
OUTWARD--TO
BE SPREAD
ACROSS THE
VAST COSMOS
AND THE
EXPANDING
UNIVERSE FOR
ALL INFINITY...



HE CAN NEVER
REFORM HIM-
SELF, FOR HE
WILL ALWAYS BE
SPEEDING OUT-
WARD AT MORE
THAN A HUN-
DRED THOUSAND
MILES PER
SECOND--THE
SPEED OF THE
EXPANDING
UNIVERSE!

NOW THE SPECTRE RETURNS TO
THE ANCIENT TEMPLE, TO FIND
THAT WITH THE EXISTENCE--
ELIMINATION OF SHATHAN,
SHADON'S HAVE REJOINED
THE WORSHIPPERS...

I'LL BRING YOU ALL
BACK TO YOUR HOMES!
YOUR TROUBLES AND
FEARS ARE OVER!
GOOD HAS WON
OUT OVER EVIL!





AS THE LAST
SHADOW
VICTIM IS
RETURNED...

THANKS, SPECTRE--
AND FAREWELL!

I FEEL PERIL MENACING
MY PHYSICAL SELF--
JIM CORRIGAN! I
MUST GET TO HIM AT
ONCE!

BUT AS THE **SPIRIT SLEUTH** DROPS DOWN OVER
GATEWAY CITY, HE SEES...

THE PERIL IS PAST!
JIM HAS THINGS WELL
UNDER CONTROL!



AS JIM SAVED THE CITY FROM
LAWLESS MEN, SO I SAVED
THE WORLD FROM AN EVIL
DEMON! TOGETHER, WE
SHALL CONTINUE OUR
UNENDING EFFORTS TO
MAKE EARTH AND ITS
UNIVERSE SAFE FROM
ANY THREAT!



Before **YOU** buy--
CHECK and
DOUBLE
CHECK!

SHOWCASE

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